

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Following entry of this Amendment, the claims pending in the present application will be Claims 7-12. Claims 1-6, which were directed to compositions for cleaning contact lenses, have been cancelled. Claims 7-12 are directed to methods of removing protein deposits from contact lenses. Claim 7 has been amended above so as to more clearly define the claimed methods and distinguish the methods from the prior art.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as allegedly being anticipated by WO 97/06782 (Reed, et al.). Reconsideration of this rejection relative to Claims 7-12 is requested.

The Reed, et al. reference is directed to the use of O-carboxyalkyl chitosan as a vehicle for ocular drugs, particularly drugs that require an acidic pH (i.e., 4 to 6) for stability purposes. The stated objective of Reed, et al. is to provide compositions that achieve improved ocular retention and enhance drug bioavailability. The invention of Reed, et al. is not directed to the field of contact lens cleaning products. Reed, et al. do not disclose any methods for treating contact lenses, nor do they suggest that their compositions might somehow be useful in the treatment of contact lenses. In particular, the Reed, et al. reference clearly does not suggest that anionic chitosan derivatives could be utilized to remove protein deposits from contact lenses. Therefore, this reference does not anticipate the methods of Claims 7-12, nor does it render those methods obvious to a person of ordinary skill in the art.

Claims 1-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(e) as allegedly being anticipated by or, in the alternative, under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as allegedly being obvious over U.S. Patent No. 6,716,970 (Hung, et al.). Reconsideration of this rejection relative to Claims 7-12 is requested.

The Hung, et al. reference discloses the use of acetylated chitosans or chitosan derivatives to enhance the antimicrobial activity of ophthalmic compositions, including solutions for treating contact lenses. However, contrary to the statement made in the first paragraph on page 4 of the Office Action, this reference does not disclose methods for cleaning contact lenses.

The experiment discussed in column 12 of the Hung, et al. patent, beginning at line 44, indicates that the formulation of Example 1 was able to retard the denaturation of lysozyme in an *in vitro* test. However, there is no assertion that the prevention of denaturation was attributable to the glycol chitosan contained in the formulation of Example 1 and, more importantly, there is no suggestion that an anionic chitosan derivative would be effective in removing protein depositions from contact lenses.

As demonstrated by the data presented in Example 2 of the present application, it has been discovered that anionic chitosan derivatives are effective in removing lysozyme deposits that are already attached to contact lenses. As shown in Tables 3 and 4 on page 16 of the present application, the solutions of the present invention consistently removed about 40% of the lysozyme present on the surface of contact lenses whose surfaces had been coated with lysozyme. The ability of anionic chitosan derivatives to remove such deposits is not suggested by the Hung, et al. reference.

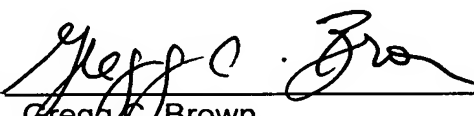
In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Claims 7-12 are believed to be in condition for allowance. A notification to that effect is respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted,

ALCON RESEARCH, LTD.

10/4/05

Date

By: 

Gregg C. Brown
Registration No. 30,613

Address for Correspondence:
Gregg C. Brown
Alcon Research, Ltd.
6201 South Freeway, Mail Code Q-148
Fort Worth, Texas 76134-2099
Phone: (817) 551-8663
Attorney Docket No.: 2558 US